

Tomorrow: High: 74 F Low: 51 F



ay: F 03

Just say thank you
Check out the science
behind why some people
reject compliments.

04

Ring side The K-State equestrian team starts the season off at home on Friday.

06

Last days in office
Collegian reporter Jena Sauber
highlights the past year for
K-State's student ambassadors.

All-University Career Fair draws more students than last year

Anna Warring staff writer

In today's declining economy, it can be tough to get a job. Some are confused as to where to look and others want to put their best foot forward for a future career, hoping to make the right connections to put them at the top of the employment ladder. But the one question many students have is "Where do I look?" Career Employment Services is there to help.

CES held a two day career fair on Tuesday and Wednesday. Many organizations and corporations came to look at the students dressed in their finery, shake hands and discuss internships and full-time jobs. There were more than 40 tables at the fair, including tables for Target, NetApp, HyVee. The businesses represented ranged from computer technology and web building to cattle feedlots and real estate.

"Some of the companies that were only going to do one day decided to do both days," said Angela Hayes, chair of the Career Fair. "They were very impressed with the quality of students who came."

Hayes said the number of students attending had increased from last year. On Tuesday alone there were 2,400 students, whereas last year about 1,600 attended.

Some professors required their students to attend the fair to hone their resume and interview skills.

"There are at least 400 students required to come to the career fair and some of them have even thanked me for 'making them come," said Stacey Lhuillier, instructor in business



photos by Evert Nelson | Collegian

Corporate representatives gathered in more than 40 tables and booths at Tuesday's All-University Career Fair at Bramlage Coliseum.

administration. "It's teaching them to reach in and shake hands with those

businesses."

There was another surprise to the fair: the number of freshman that came. Most people would assume that companies looking for students would look to the oldest students who are graduating soon and who can come work for them within the next few months, but some of the companies were impressed with the younger

students. The students who

went up and asked questions left the biggest impressions and came back

"They were very impressed with the quality of students who came."

Angela Hayes chair of career fair

"All the companies gave

with plenty of information.

very helpful information," said Vincent Karpinski, freshman in mechanical engineering. "They all seemed pretty interested that as a freshman I would go up to them, but they all seemed genuinely inter-

Dakota Foos, freshman in accounting, said, "I talked to Koch Industries, and they gave me some great information about

internships."

Lhuillier gave students who are going to a career fair for the first time some

tips. "Employers are highly impressed by the dress of the students. This has been the best-dressed career fair this year."

Another bit of advice Lhuillier gave regarded the quality of the resume. "Make sure your resume is printed on good paper. If it's printed on plain paper, it shows that you didn't put any effort into your resume."

She also advised that students use available services, like CES, to help them with their resume and their dress.

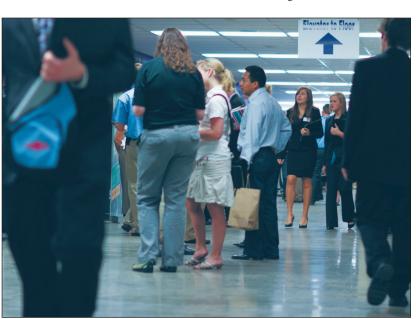
and their dress.

The career fair provided students with opportunities to make connections and receive the information they need to succeed in the future. Some students, however, had a difficult time making the fair. Having to skip a class or reschedule was not uncommon for some students in

order to make it to the fair.
"I wish the fair went later into the evening. The fair is set during most courses and it was difficult for me to get here," Foos said.



Jonathan Weiss, junior in industrial engineering, talks to **Roji Philip**, Cargill Inc.'s engineering representative, about a possible summer internship on Tuesday in the busy corridor of the upper level of Bramlage Coliseum.



Many students were dressed in their finest businesswear at the career fair on Tuesday. "This has been the best-dressed career fair," said Stacey Lhuillier, instructor in business administration.

Retention of black students at K-State remains problem

Cooper Mach contributing writer

Editor's Note: This story was produced as a class assignment for the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Caiel Noble would sit in his leadership studies lecture and take notes and participate just like all the other students. However, there was always something in the back of his mind.

"I don't see it as a hard thing, but sometimes it just wears on you," Noble said.

The "it" that Noble is referring to is his skin color.

Noble is one of 191 black stu-

Noble is one of 191 black students who enrolled at K-State for the first time as a freshman in fall 2009. Of those 191, only 126 enrolled again during fall 2010 for a second year.

The retention of black stu-

dents has posed a challenge to K-State and other universities across the nation for decades.

CATS CLAWING TO RETAIN STUDENTS

Data available on K-State's

official website suggests that both second-year retention and graduation rates for black students have been well below that of white students for the last 10 years. It appears that most black student drop-outs occur after the first year, but this is not necessarily always the case.

K-State's average yearly retention rate for second-year black students between 2000 and 2010 was about 66 percent. Over that same period, K-State's retention rate for white students was nearly 81 percent.

Records have been kept not only for the second year, but also for what percentage of students of different races have graduated by their seventh year. Of students who were entering their seventh year from 2000 to 2004, the graduation rate for white students has stayed above 60 percent. The black student seventh-year graduation has not risen above 38 percent during that same time period and hit a low in 2002 at 18.75

percent.

According to the data, the largest drop-out rate for black students at K-State happens after the first year. The reten-



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

While sitting in Hale Library on Wednesday afternoon, **Angelika Huguley**, graduate student in political science, works on perfecting a presentation she is giving in class today. K-State's official website has data suggesting that black students have a lower rate of retention and graduation than white students for the past decade.

tion typically drops anywhere from 30 to 40 percent between the first and second year. Retention dropped an extra 10 and 20 percent between the students' second and third years. The severity of the number of students who drop out continu-

ously decreases throughout the data; however, at no point does

the drop-out rate cease.

There are many questions as to why universities have so much trouble keeping black students enrolled on their campuses.

MINORITY STUDENT RETENTION GIVING UNIVERSITIES TROUBLE ACROSS THE NATION

Multiple studies show that universities across the nation struggle when it comes to retention of black students.

According to a story produced by NPR, The Associated Press conducted a study in 2009 that sheds light on the struggles of black student retention. The AP researched overall graduation rates of universities and compared them to the graduation rates of historically black colleges and universities, or HBCUs.

The study found that HBCUs' overall graduation rate was 20 percent lower than the overall graduation rate of the national average of 57 percent.

These struggles are no different at K-State.

JohnElla Holmes, K-State's coordinator of multicultural student retention for the College of Arts and Sciences, said that mi-

nority retention is a problem. "There was a study done and presented at the Tilford Conference October 2009 [on] AfricanAmerican male retention in Big 12 universities," Holmes said. "We were the lowest and that was quite a shock." Holmes and other experts that

there are multiple reasons universities struggle with retaining black students.

THE MANY CAUSES OF LOW RETENTION

Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and dean of students, explained why he thinks universities struggle with black student retention.

"Underrepresented students typically are first-generation families, which makes it extremely difficult when beginning the college selection process," Bosco said. "There's not an anticipation of deadlines, expectations of what questions to ask, so we find that first-generation students, in particular, start with not only a blank slate but sometimes no slate at all. So it takes some of our students a period of time to adapt and understand some of

RETENTION | pg. 5



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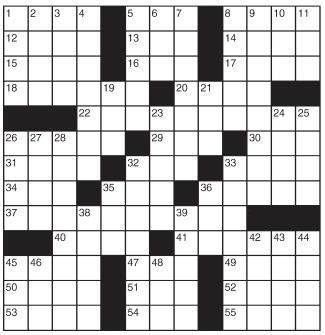
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Logan's Run | By Erin Logan



CORRECTION

There were errors in the Sept. 21 issue of the Collegian.

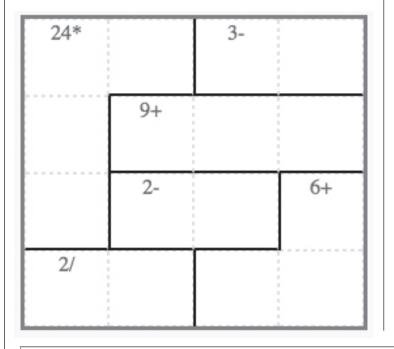
The Page 9 story "K-State Alumna speaks about education, pre-college programs," stated that K-State does not have Upward Bound programs. K-State has two Upward Bound programs available.

The Collegian regrets the errors.

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call Managing Editor Caroline Sweeney at 785-532-6556 or email news@spub.ksu.edu

KenKen | Medium

Use numbers 1-4 in each row and column without repeating. The numbers in each outlined area must combine to produce the target number in each area using the mathematical operation



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The Kansas State Collegian, a student newspaper at Kansas State University, is published by Student Publications, Inc. It is published weekdays during the school year and on Wednesdays during the summer. Periodical postage is paid at Manhattan, KS. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kedzie 103, Manhattan, KS 66506-7167. First copy free, additional copies 25 cents. [USPS 291 020] © Kansas State Collegian, 2011 All weather information courtesy of the National Weather Service. For up-to-date forecasts, visit nws.noaa.gov.

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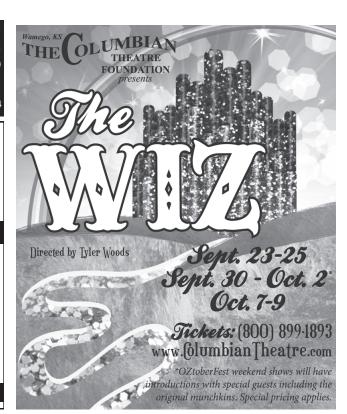
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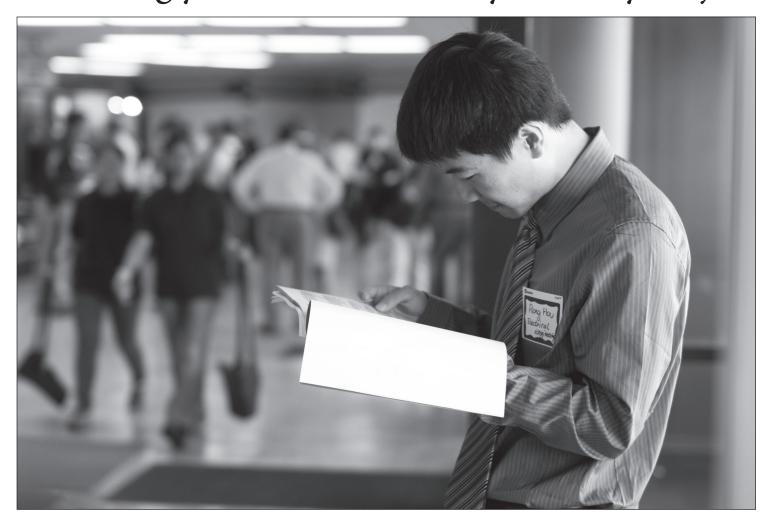
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Protecting your Internet identity — and your job



Peng Hou, junior in electrical engineering, goes over some information on Tuesday at the All-University Career Fair, held at Bramlage Coliseum.

Andy Rao

Students today face many challenges. In a brutal economy, jobs are difficult to come by, and the last thing new graduates need is to have their Facebook profiles deny them

Social networking has brought the world together, but it has also exposed people to outlets they might not want to be exposed to.

According to a 2009 study done by careerbuilder.com, more employers are using social networking profiles as part of background checks. The study, conducted by the job search website, found that 45 percent of employers that were surveyed reviewed the contents of social networking profiles to make a decision to hire a staff member.

A 2008 study by careerbuilder. com revealed that 33 percent of employers decided not to make job offers to potential candidates based on their social networking profiles, and said that postings of "inappropriate" or "provocative" photos were the top reasons that they retracted their offers.

That should be considered a potential red flag not just for new college students, but also for everyone that has a profile on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or any other of sort of online activity.

Although this new movement of profile monitoring has caused some to lose job offers, there is a silver

lining to the phenomenon.

A new industry was born: online reputation management.

Online reputation management, the industry that has developed from the need for a positive image, has become a hit among people that have posted an inappropriate party picture or have used a little too much profanity.

A number of online companies

have surfaced, and a simple Google search reveals websites such as profiledefenders.com and reputationmanagement consultants.com that are taking charge of helping people restore their reputations.

Using a technique called "inoculation," these websites can help users track down negative posts and articles about them on social networking websites, online marketplaces, review sites, forums and blogs.

The main focus is search engine results, as most basic background searches start with a Google search. If an employer keyword searches a potential hire, and the candidate has a negative listing on the first page or two, his or her chances of landing that job are reduced.

The websites offer a multitude of services that are able to mold the search results and online content to their preferences.

For example, profiledefenders. com has a feature in one of its service packages that will analyze the content of the website and sort the favorable, positive sites to the top of the search engine results, while pushing the negative sites to the end of the results.

Other services include a personal profile adviser to answer questions and guide users' profile movement and trend reporting, which analyzes

"I try to promote and instill our ideals into people that I work with, and even the simplest thing of setting the example online can go a long way."

Collin Huerter

sophomore in political science and international studies

changes in online profiles.

Though many think of reputation management as a safety net to land a job, there are many other positions and organizations that expect a positive online reputation from their members.

When Collin Huerter, sophomore in political science and international studies, got elected as the central region chief of the Boy Scouts of America, one of his responsibilities was to stay clean

"It's very important to maintain an image that upholds the high standards of scouting," Huerter said. Huerter, who has thousands of

scouts around the nation reporting to him, said it is his responsibility to remain professional.

"I try to promote and instill our ideals into people that I work with, and even the simplest thing of setting the example online can go a long way," he said.

Though online reputation management websites offer a variety of services to remove negative comments and records from the Internet, they can also increase positive results by increasing the amount of positive social media or creating a unique website that shows the user in a favorable light.

Social networking sites can also make a positive difference in a job search. Using Facebook, job candidates can search for different employers, view and like their Facebook pages and connect themselves with people who are already within the organization.

Using social networking to form relationships is considered the new way of connecting to a rapidly shrinking world.

For those who want to maintain a positive image in cyberspace, online reputation management can help build a favorable reputation, and just might be able to get thousands of people the jobs of their dreams.

chologist and author of the article,

"The Official Guide to Energy Heal-

ing," believes people tend to reject

compliments due to the human af-

compliments include: analyzing the

compliment and wondering, 'What

did they really mean?' [feeling] un-

comfortable or embarrassed with

the attention of a compliment, feel-

ing unworthy or undeserving of the

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or simply not knowing how to handle

sor of psychology, was recently in-

terviewed for an Aug. 31 MSNBC

article on the topic of compliment

rejection, and referred to the idea of

menter wants something, they are

less likely to believe it," Brannon said

in the interview. "And we might also

make an attribution based on our

own beliefs. If we are insecure [about

the subject of the compliment], that

can lead us to interpret a compliment

you've got a really nice smile," can

certainly become a complicated

Something as simple as, "Hey,

differently than it was intended.

"If somebody thinks the compli-

Laura Brannon, associate profes-

the compliment," Colby wrote.

the "attribution theory."

"A few reasons we may reject

finity for overanalyzing.

THE WEEKLY 10

Getting rid of writers block



Ever sat down to write an essay for school or even just for fun and not had a single word on paper after a few hours? Writer's block is always a major concern for me. However, it is quite easy to overcome. Here are 10 important tips to overcoming writer's

1. Believe:

First and foremost, one has to believe that writing is not an act of God. Even the great scriptures from any part of the world, if we agree they are works of God, had a human being pen them into the books that we read today. So believe that you can do it and be sure of yourself.

2. Start small:

The best way to get comfortable with writing is to pick something small that doesn't involve a serious topic or require a lot of research. That way, you can ease into the writing mode and progressively pick tougher topics to write on.

3. Write about what you like:

It is important for one to pick a topic, story or event on campus that genuinely tickles one's interest and imagination. Topics you have no idea about or interest in can be the biggest contributors to writer's block.

4. Find the right source:

Identifying a good starting point can go a long way in arriving at a good finished product. You have to find the right source for the piece being worked on. This will make the work a lot easier and more enjoyable because you will already have all of the necessary information. This eliminates the panic involved with writing.

5. Research:

Nobody likes this word, but it helps to produce the best articles. The more you research topics, the more information you will get and the more ideas you'll discover to write about. All hail Google.

6. Discuss:

Engage in friendly arguments and discussions with your friends or roommates about the topics you are writing about or would like to write about. This will bring out different perspectives and trigger the necessary thought processes in your mind that will allow you to write

better. 7. Take breaks:

As with any other activity, writing can get dull and monotonous. Set checkpoints and take breaks so the ideas remain fresh and sluggishness doesn't creep into the work.

8. Open your mind:

Writer's block occurs more often than not because the writer is focused on only one perspective or approach. So opening up your mind for any possibility and trying to approach things from different angles will help

9. Brace yourself:

It helps to enter into the fray of writing a story or article ready and prepared for everything that one might face. You have to try and be neutral and open-minded. This will eliminate the feeling of desperation from the equation and you can be in better possession of your faculties.

Last of all, you need to enjoy writing. Smile at the tough writing assignment at hand and take it head on. Invariably you will succeed in bringing out a good piece of work with that attitude.

Balasubramanyn Meenakshisundaram is a graduate student in electrical engineering. Send comments to edge@

The science of compliment rejection: gender and attribution

Darrington Clark staff writer

Have you ever told someone how gorgeous he or she looks that day, only to hear them call themselves ugly? How about a time when you thought someone's shoes looked great, and you got accused of lying? It happens all the time. Now, for a more difficult question: Have you ever wondered why?

It doesn't make sense when you think about it. If somebody said something genuinely nice about you, why would you ever want to chastise or distrust him or her? The phenomenon of rejecting compliments is so widespread that there is a Facebook page dedicated to it.

One common theory to explain why people deflect compliments is that people sometimes believe noth-

ing good about them could be true. People like to dwell on the negative. When you're happy, it doesn't seem to last long, but when people are sad, they like to stay on sadness and reject good things," said Jeremy Davis, freshman in arts and sciences open option. "The natural inclination for humans to dwell on the negative might be a strong reason."

When asked about his personal choices when it came to compliments, Davis offered another explanation.

"Personally, when I reject a compliment, it's in hopes that the person will confirm the compliment for me," he said. "I may do it because if they

PEOPLE'S

GROCERY

repeat it and confirm their compliment, I'll know that they truly meant

But not everyone reacts the same way, raising another question: Of all the compliment rejecters, how many are men, and how many are women? Which gender is more often the cul-

"Females, definitely," said Katy Wolfe, freshman in criminology.

Taylor Cabine, freshman in pre-

Wolfe explained that women have to be warier about compliments because sometimes women use them sarcastically against each other. She also said she thinks men aren't put in

that position often. Guys may generally not get that many compliments in comparison. Girls tend to worry about more things," she said. "Guys are more confident and tend not to care, in my

"If somebody thinks the complimenter wants something, they are less likely to believe it. And we might also make an attribution based on our own beliefs. If we are insecure ... that can lead us to interpret a compliment differently than it was intended."

associate professor of psychology

architecture, said people of both genders are sometimes skeptical of compliments.

"It really depends on the case," Cabine said. "Women generally need more reassurance about themselves, and guys are more confident. Compliments from a woman to a guy are taken lightly, women complimenting women happens constantly and they might reject it, and a guy's to girl might be rejected because of flatcompliments herself, but her reason had little to do with her confidence.

"Sometimes, when you don't reject compliments, the boy giving them to you will get the wrong signal. I don't want some guy to think I like him,"

A person's reason for denying

Wolfe also admitted to rejecting

praise or honor can range from confidence to mixed messages, but is there any scientific reason why humans do this? Annette Colby, psy-

ordeal when you add a bit of reasoning and psychology, so the next time you receive a compliment, if you're hasty to answer with negativity, think carefully about what you're going to say. You might reveal more about yourself than you think.

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HORSE POWER

Equestrian team to kick off season Friday

Tyler Dreiling

The K-State equestrian team will kick off its season at home for the third straight year on Friday with a show against Division II Minnesota-Crookston at Timber Creek

The Wildcats began the 2009 and 2010 campaigns at home by facing TCU and Baylor, respectively.

K-State will look to build on last year's very successful season in which it finished as Varsity Equestrians National Championships Reserve National Champions.

We are excited not only for the first competition of the season, but also for the chance to play a team that does not compete regularly in the varsity format," said head coach Casie Lisabeth in a press release. "We are really pushing more schools to pick up and compete full-time in this format so shows like this will really help from an educational

"We are excited not only for the first competition of the season, but also for the chance to play a team that does not compete regularly in the varsity format."

Casie Lisabeth KSU equestrian head coach

aspect. It is early in the season, so we are hoping for clean, productive rides and to see a lot of confidence

in our athletes." K-State will be led by juniors Kali Yates and Larissa Laffey in Hunt Seat. The veteran duo combined for 17 wins and three match-MVP awards last season and is looking to build on that success going into

Along with beginning a new season on Friday, the Wildcats will debut a new riding surface on the outdoor arena at Timber Creek Stables. K-State coaches and riders are very excited about the changes.

'We are also anxious to get to showcase the many upgrades that have been made at our facility including a new outdoor arena and new dressing room area," said Lisabeth in the press release. "The athletic department has been hugely supportive of our requests to help take our team to the next level and we are extremely grateful."



Lauren Gocken I Collegian

Paige Ryan, senior in agricultural communication and journalism, competes in the horsemanship portion ofw the Purple and White scrimmage Sept. 10. The team officially starts its season on Friday at 10 a.m. at Timber Creek Stables against Minnesota-Crookston.

Looking forward: How to keep the Big 12 alive



The Big 12 can finally breathe a sigh of relief after holding their breath for what seemed like a worldrecord time following the announcement from the Pac-12 that they would not accept Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State as their 13th through 16th members to form a super conference.

That, for now at least, salvages the Big 12 conference, which will be down to nine teams when and if Texas A&M departs for the Southeastern Conference. The only thing stopping the Aggies from leaving is potential legal action from Big 12 members Baylor, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa State and Oklahoma State. Baylor had come out publicly, stating that they intend to pursue legal action, while the other aforementioned schools did not publicly say they waived their rights to

for more information visit the website at

http://www.ksu.edu/osas/legal.htm

With all that said, for now the Big 12 is safe from the Pac-12 and the SEC. Now it is time to take the offensive by adopting the mindset many people thought the Pac-12 had: reap teams from a failing conference. It is also time for the Big 12 and its schools to retain its litigation rights and pursue legal action against Texas A&M due to their intended departure. The Big 12 needs to let the country know that the conference has a strong hand and will act forcefully to maintain the health of

the conference. The previously mentioned failing conference is the Big East. Pittsburgh and Syracuse have announced their decision to leave the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference, a move that will take place in 27 months as part of a by-law of the Big East that the Orange and the Panthers intend to follow. It is also being speculated that the University of Connecticut is looking at its conference options.

Andy Katz of ESPN speculated on SportsCenter that Louisville and West Virginia, both current Big

Monday - Friday

9:00 - 11:00 am & 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Other appointments available upon request.

East members, would be viable options for the Big 12. In addition to those two schools, he talked about Brigham Young University, an independent football school and a West Coast Conference member in all its other sports, possibly joining the Big 12.

"If the Big 12 got BYU and WVU, the reach of the conference would be over 1,900 miles across the country. It is time to make the Big 12 a national brand that other conferences fear."

> Sean Frye sophomore in journalism and mass communications

I say that if you want to avoid any future potential upheavals of the conference, the Big 12 absolutely, 100-percent needs to chase those schools and get the conference back up to 12 members. The Big 12 presi-

dents are scheduled to have a teleconference today to discuss policy changes to stabilize the conference following this month-long period of uncertainty, the second period in just over one calendar year the conference has experienced, both of which involved in at least one school leaving. In addition to Texas A&M's departure, the Big 12 lost Nebraska and Colorado last year to the Big Ten and

Pac-12 respectively. The Big 12 is the only Football Bowl Subdivision conference currently in the NCAA in which all of its schools, even KU (surprisingly enough) have a winning record in football thus far this year.

With that being said, the conference needs to act on the elite status of the Big 12 and lure teams to the conference.

The Big 12 has gotten through two crisis periods thus far. The biggest question for the Big 12 now is

where do they go from here. The Big 12 needs to go get teams, stabilize the conference and give the confer-

ence a long, bright future. Louisville, Ky. and Provo, Utah, the locations of Louisville and Brigham Young are two primetime markets that are reportedly open to the reaping of the Big 12. Morgantown, W.Va. is also an amazing opportunity for the Big 12 to expand eastward and reach a wider audience. If the Big 12 got BYU and WVU, the reach of the conference would be over 1,900 miles across the country. It is time to make the Big 12 a national brand that other conferences fear.

Finally, I do not believe the Big 12 and its member schools should so freely let Texas A&M leave. Now that the conference has an upper hand and it is moving towards stabilization, it should pursue the Aggies for all they have. Earn some money for the conference that will further entice teams to stay.

The Big 12 survived having its head jammed under water for a long period of time. Now that it's up and done gasping for air, the conference as a whole needs to take the offensive and get the conference back to the prestige it was at just a few years ago.

Sean Frye is a sophomore in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to sports@spub.ksu.edu.

Two-minute drill

Monty Thompson

NFL

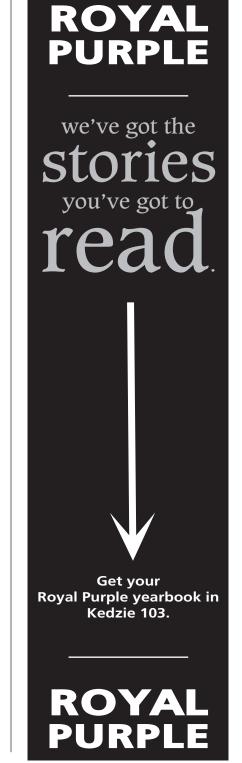
Dallas Cowboys cornerback Terence Newman is expected to return to the team for this week's game. The former Wildcat suffered a rib injury near the end of last season that has just recently healed enough for him to play. Though Newman was reported to be healthy enough to play last week, team trainers held him out an extra week as a precaution. Newman and the Cowboys will return to action when they take on the Washington Redskins on Monday Night Football at 8:30.

In his first start as a Royal, pitcher Luis Mendoza earned an impressive 10-2 win against the division-leading Detroit Tigers. Royals left fielder Alex Gordon started the scoring surge with a leadoff home run in the first inning. However, it was first baseman Eric Hosmer's fivefor-five performance at the plate that stood out the most. The Royals hope to end the season with a winning home record as they finish up the two-game series with the Tigers before heading to Chicago to face the White Sox.

College athletics aren't the only sports dealing with realignment, and while it certainly isn't as controversial, the NHL is preparing for changes of its own. With multiple teams looking to either switch to a new division of their current conference or move to an entirely new conference, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman will have his hands full as he prepares for the 2012-13 season. The NHL and all teams involved must reach a decision by December to allow for proper scheduling.

NCAA

Local high school basketball star Perry Ellis made his decision on where he will play his college basketball. Ellis will attend the University of Kansas and play basketball for head coach Bill Self. Ellis chose Kansas over Kansas State, Wichita State and Kentucky. Ellis is the 24th ranked player in the 2012 class according to rivals.com.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear K-State students,

Welcome to Manhattan. Now you have been here a few weeks and have made some progress in settling in. It is always a little adjustment for us permanent residents to have so many young, energetic folks around. However, we are definitely glad you are here. Many of us depend on you for our livelihoods. Furthermore, we enjoy the new blood, enthusiasm and ideas you bring with you. You, and what you bring with you, keep us here and involved in life.

With that said, please take note of a few things that could help you get on the good side of your neighbors.

First of all, remember that even if many of your neighbors are also young folks that keep the same kinds of hours you do, some of us don't. As a matter of fact, some of us have to be at work as early as 7 or 8 in the morning. Even some weekends. So, tone it down a little bit after 10 p.m. If you are throwing a party, contact your neighbors and let them know who to contact if there is a problem. Then be responsive if they do call. It sure is a lot easier than getting a visit from the Riley County Police Department.

Stay sober in public. Even in Aggieville. Drunk drivers kill other people, drunk pedestrians injure and kill themselves. Designated drivers really are life savers. Work out your designated driver before imbibing.

When you have parties, make arrangements for the trash that will be generated. No one likes walking past a pile of beer bottles, cans, condoms and whatever in your front lawn. If you need to purchase a trash container or two for outside, you know where to look. Or ask one of your neighbors for a loaner — we have loaned ours out to our neighbors.

It goes without saying that following traffic laws helps us tolerate other shenanigans you come up with. Speed limits are just that limits, not suggestions. Hang up and drive. No parking means no parking. Watch for pedestrians in the cross-

Speaking of pedestrians, think about how visible you are to drivers. They might have the sun in their eyes or their view might be partially blocked. Sometimes they just won't have time to stop after you enter the street. Nighttime can be especially hazardous. It is well-documented that pedestrians think they are much more visible to motorists than they are, especially at dusk and in the

When bicycling, follow the same traffic rules as motorists. Plus, wear your helmet and stay on the streets. Sidewalks are for pedestrians. You will find a few bicycle lanes close to campus. Just like pedestrians, you need to think visibility after dusk. Lights, especially on your wheels, or flashing lights, help to draw a driver's attention to you. Reflective gear is good for both bicyclists and pedestrians. Our hope is that in the next decade, Manhattan will become friendlier to bicyclists and pedestrians, so give the city commissioners your feedback on what will help. You can find their contact information at the City of Manhattan website.

Many of you have already learned it a lot easier to walk a few more places than you are accustomed to in your previous home. Manhattan is a small city, not a suburb or a rural farm. Moreover, it can be tough to find a parking spot when you return from a trip.

> **Caprice Becker** Manhattan resident

Dear Editor:

Caleb Greinke went too far in his criticism of K-State's recent EcoKat conundrum (Sept. 15). Yes, the marketing image was ill-conceived and deserved the viral ridicule it got. But Greinke mistakenly attributes this failure to K-State's green goals and sustainability objectives.

To attack environmentalism suggests a lack of awareness regarding the historical moment, in a context of global warming, nuclear catastrophe and mega oil spills.

The embarrassment we felt from the silly EcoKat marketing image

was nothing compared to what K-State's peers around the world would say if it turned out that our institution of higher education was not serious about addressing energy conservation and green community development.

I, for one, am proud to be associated with a university that values environmental stewardship and seeks to instill such values in every Wildcat student.

Sincerely,

Robert Bruce Scott Doctoral candidate in special education

RETENTION | First-generation college students struggle to adjust to K-State

Continued from page 1

our expectations. [The transition] is a tough one, particularly when no one in your family has done it before."

Angela Muhwezi, senior in biology and K-State's first African-American student ambassador, said she agrees with Bosco's analysis.

"It seems that a lot of the minority population, and especially African-American students, a number of them may be first-generation college students so when they come to school they don't really know what to expect," Muhwezi said. "So they may not learn proper study habits or to get involved or things like that because they didn't have parents or a lot of family members who went to college to help them out and give them the heads up on what to expect."

There are, however, multiple other theories as to why black students may struggle to graduate from college. Some people say geographical and economic reasons are to blame.

"It could be that a lot of minorities come from neighborhoods of poverty and they might not know where to get help," Noble said.

Another theory as to why K-State has one of the lowest black retention rates in the Big 12 is the location and culture of Manhattan. K-State is a land-grant university with a large focus on agriculture.

"[Local culture] would be really far down on the list because you'd have unpreparedness, no role models, knowing how to navigate, then financial aid and financial stresses," Holmes said. "Those are all huge."

Although Holmes said she does not see the predominantly white population of Manhattan as a significant cultural problem, she thinks it can have some impact on K-State's reten-

"[It] plays into it, of course, because the limited amount of products, the limited amount of people like to go for a barber or to get your hair done," Holmes said. "Having their own culture in this community plays a part, but I would put that like eighth or ninth on a list of 10."

Muhwezi said that sometimes, being in the minority can have a wearing effect on black students. Some feel alone without other minor-

ity students to share experiences with. "If you talk to African-American

students their freshman year, that's like the first thing they'll say, 'I'm the only black person in my class," Muhwezi said.

With all of these issues, K-State has developed strategies to help the retention numbers begin to climb.

EFFORTS TAKE SHAPE TO RETAIN MINORITY STUDENTS

"Retention is our No. 1 concern,"

Bosco said K-State is trying to help black students continue their education in Manhattan in many different

Évery college on campus has some sort of diversity programming to focus on minority students and their academic success.

"[Mentoring] is probably the biggest thing because you'd be surprised that it's the smaller things that a lot of students have problems with — little things like they don't know where to get a tutor or they don't know how to fill out a FAFSA."

Angela Muhwezi senior in biology K-State's first African-American student ambassador

"Well, that was a direct initiative from our associate provost for diversity, Dr. [Myra] Gordon. She believes strongly that there ought to be a person at every level that's specifically interested in, and makes an intentional commitment to, helping our students be successful," Bosco said. "I think that has a tremendous impact on our ability to respond to students in need.'

The different types of programming vary from committees, such as the College of Arts and Sciences' Diversity Committee, to the College of Engineering's Multicultural Engineering Program.

The program's website states that it provides scholarships, study centers and multicultural mentors, among other opportunities.

These mentoring programs are essential to progress, Muhwezi said.

[Mentoring] is probably the biggest thing because you'd be surprised that it's the smaller things that a lot of students have problems with — little things like they don't know where to get a tutor or they don't know how to fill out a FAFSA," Muhwezi said.

There are also many scholarships designed to help minority students with the hopes of encouraging them to stay in college. And there are websites designed specifically to help black students search for and apply for scholarships such as blackstudents.com and blackexcel.org.

FUTURE LOOKING BRIGHT FOR RETENTION OF STU-**DENTS**

Although the numbers have shown no real improvement in the last 10 years, some people at K-State are confident that they will change in the near future.

"Nowhere to go but up," Holmes

Holmes said that the College of Arts and Sciences' Diversity Committee is in its third year of a threeto five-year strategic plan that she is very optimistic about. She said that K-State is leading the way for Kansas schools in Tilford multicultural competencies.

The Tilford Group is a program that focuses on minorities' development of knowledge, personal attributes and skills.

Muhwezi said she feels that K-State as a university is becoming more aware of the African-American presence on campus, as evidenced by her election as the first African-American Student Ambassador last fall.

"I think before, there really wasn't someone they could talk to," Muhwezi said. "Yeah, they could talk to faculty and things like that, but to have a student to really speak about it is a different light on the situation."

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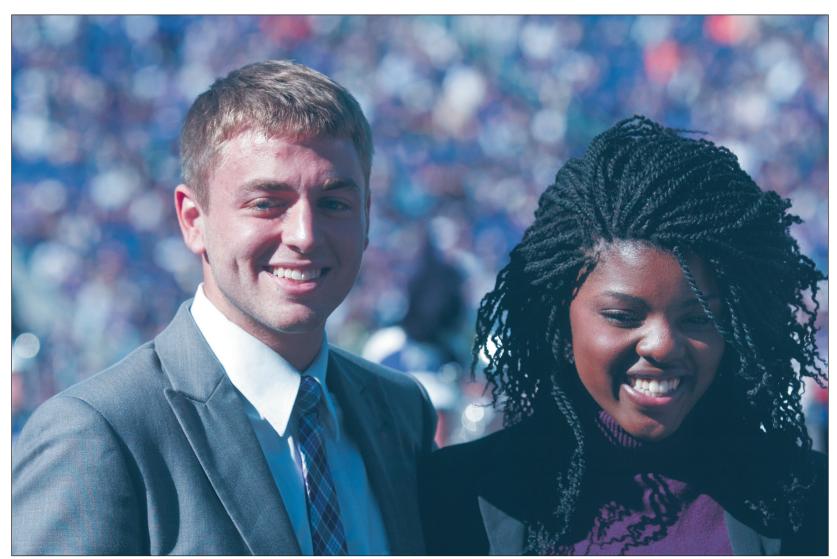
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Student Ambassadors wind down term, new election process begins



Matt Binter | Collegi

Darren Allison, senior in economics, and **Angela Muhwezi**, senior in biology, find out they were voted the K-State Student Ambassadors at the OSU game last year.

Jena Sauber

While K-State students get ready for All-University Homecoming Week 2011, a new wave of students will be competing to represent the university as the 2011-2012 K-State Student Ambassadors. Two students, one male and one female, will be selected by a combination of student panels, alumni and faculty and a university-wide vote. The new ambassadors will be announced during the Homecoming football game on Oct.

"(Student Ambassadors) travel around the state to promote K-State to perspective students and update alumni and parents about what's going on," said Gavin Hargrave, adviser for student ambassadors.

Last fall, Darren Allison, senior in marketing and public relations, and Angela Muhwezi, senior in biology and pre-dentistry, were selected as the K-State Student Ambassadors. Now, they prepare to relinquish their titles after their year of service.

"I definitely feel like it went by so quickly," Muhwezi said. "I've had a really good experience doing it and meeting people and I've been caught up in the moment. It's like, 'Oh no, it's almost over. Where has the time gone?"

It is a bittersweet time, Muhwezi said.

"It's the highlight of my college career and a good time, but to know that someone else is going to have the experience is a good feeling," Muhwezi said. "I can't hog it all."

Student nominations were

submitted earlier this month. Students who were nominated received an application and are encouraged to apply either online or on the printed application form. Applications are due Thursday, Sept. 29 by 5 p.m.

After applications have

been submitted, candidates go before a panel of students. The panel is diverse and represents many areas of the student body, Hargrave said. "From there, they move on

to the next step, which is when they get up in front of alumni and faculty. They narrow it

"First and foremost, we need people who bleed purple, who are all about K-State. They are out there to promote the university, to interact with alumni and future students. Time management is important, too. It does require a commitment. They also need to be extroverted, OK with speaking to people about K-State."

Gavin Hargrave adviser of student ambassadors down to three females and three males," Hargrave said. After the six finalists are

selected, the entire study body has the opportunity to vote for both a male and female candidate. The voting will take place during Homecoming Week.

"Once down to three, it's

"Once down to three, it's not like any other election where they can campaign. We kind of give their qualifications and they speak around campus, but there are no posters or campaigns all over campus," Hargrave said. "I think it's ensures that the best are chosen because it's a three step process."

When looking for future candidates, there are several things that are key, Hargrave said.

"First and foremost, we need people who bleed purple,

who are all about K-State. They are out there to promote the university, to interact with alumni and future students," Hargrave said. "Time management is important, too. It does require a commitment. They also need to be extroverted, OK with speaking to people about K-State."

Muhwezi agreed.

"A great ambassador has to love K-State. You are ambassadors to the university, you talk to alumni and future students," Muhwezi said. "You have to have an undying love for the university."

It is a position that can have an important impact on future students across the state and the nation, Allison said.

"I think many students, especially those out of state, have a negative stereotype about not only the town of Manhattan, but Kansas in general," Allison said in an interview on the K-State Alumni Association website. "Many students believe that coming to Manhattan is like coming to the middle of nowhere and that there will be absolutely nothing to do. The town of Manhattan is one of the components that makes K-State so great, and I believe helping students break this stereotype is one of the greatest challenges."

As Student Ambassador adviser, Hargrave works with Allison and Muhwezi, and looks forward to working with the new ambassadors. This will be his first selection process.

"I've been here for about a month and a half and (Allison and Muhwezi) are just fun to work with. Anytime you can work with students, it is fun. At the Alumni Association, you work with older students. Working with current students is fun. They are young and fresh," Hargrave said.

As they prepare to give the title of Student Ambassadors to a new duo, Muhwezi has a few words of advice.

"I would say definitely live in the moment. You'll meet so many important people — big shots and CEO's and presidents at the universities. Utilize the connections you make," Muhwezi said. "And take a camera."

For more information about the current ambassadors, or the Student Ambassador program, visit the K-State Alumni Association website at *k-state.com/s/1173/start.aspx.*

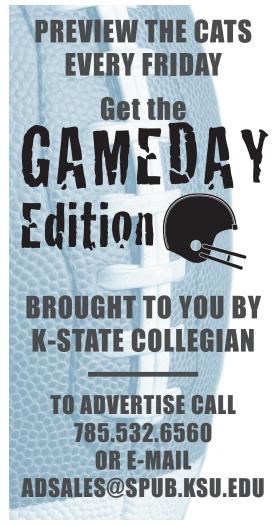
K-State daily briefs

Karen Ingram coverage editor, interim news editor

The Strecker-Nelson Gallery, located at 406 Poyntz Ave., will have a new exhibit featuring art by Lisa Lala, starting tomorrow. Lala, a native of Manhattan, will be showcasing her artwork of paintings on glass and canvas, entitled "Look & See." The exhibit will be on display through November and also features artwork by Phil Hershberger, Richard Mattsson, Amy Meya and more. For more information, please contact the Strecker-Nelson Gallery at 785-537-2099.

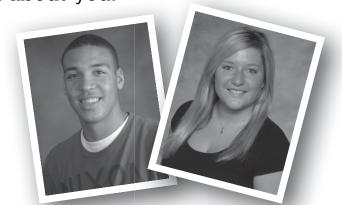
The Union Program Council will be showing the film "American History X" all weekend. It will be shown in the K-State Student Union's Forum Hall on Friday at 8 p.m. for \$2 per ticket. It will be shown in the Little Theatre on Saturday at 7 p.m. and again at 9:30, as well as on Sunday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$1. Questions should be directed to the UPC at 785-532-6571.

A reminder to all students that Monday is the last day to drop a class without a "W" being recorded. Questions should be directed to the student's academic adviser or Enrollment Services at 785-532-6254.





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